



This 1879 photograph of Center Street shows the completion of the back half of a building only partially completed on page 13. Courtesy of Provo Daily Herald.

Brigham Young ordered the people to occupy their forts. On 20 July Peter Conover went to Payson with a militia of 150. Attacks by the Indians were made at Springville, at Nephi, and in Sanpete County. They seemed determined to fight. Brigham Young wrote to Walker, "I send you some tobacco to smoke in the mountains when you get lonesome. You are a fool for fighting your best friends, for we are the best friends, and the only friends, that you have in the world. Everybody else would kill you if they could get a chance."¹¹ However the fighting mushroomed and continued into the early fall.

In Provo one of the most belligerent Indians was one named Squash who claimed that his brother had been buried by the people without Indian traditions. Angry, Squash demanded payment in blankets and cattle. Not being able to pay him right away, the settlers tried to appease him but he would not be appeased. The Indians were angry when the settlers put Squash in prison, where he died shortly afterward. Some say that a guard killed him. Some believe he killed himself.

While the fighting continued, the people tried to build a wall around the city. It was to be twelve feet

high, six feet wide at the bottom, tapering foot width at the top, with an eighteen-inch foundation. As the fighting died down, the wall was slow. It was never complete

Making Peace with the Indians

The settlers hoped that methods other than walls would solve the Indian troubles. One tried giving a feast for them. They killed three cattle in a giant picnic held in what is now a park on Fifth West and Center Street. They mixed up three barrels of biscuit dough, one barrel of butter, and cooked up a great load of sugar. The Indians enjoyed the feast, but it was not enough.

Near the time of the feast, two young boys from the Cedar Valley had been murdered by two Indians. Brigham Young had requested the two Indians be brought to justice in the courts. While the Indians were doing everything in their power to improve Indian-white relationships, their efforts were negated when the Indians became angry because the two murderers of the boys were not executed on 15 September.¹²

Although the Indians continued to raid the area, the killing of Walker helped to curb their harassment. Walker died at Meadow Creek near Fillmore on 25 August 1855. With Walker's death his brother, Arrapene, became leader of the tribe. Arrapene claimed that Walker told him not to fight with the Mormons but to settle peaceably with them.

Following the Walker War two other conflicts were the Tintic War, a raid on the west side of the Wasatch Mountains and the Bear Lake against some difficult Indians, and the Hawk War, which took place much later in 1865, south of Provo. However, after the Walker War, the major difficulties with the Indians — at least in Provo — had ended.